

principles and allowing politics to triumph.

This body tonight, by voting for what I expect will be successful passage of this bill, has allowed politics to triumph over what is in the best long-term interests of this country and over the principles that we worked on together to try to bring about comprehensive immigration reform.

I stood with a number of my colleagues on the Republican side putting together what was a comprehensive immigration reform package. We had leaders on the Democratic side who have inspired me for ages, such as Senator KENNEDY, Senator DURBIN, and Senator REID standing with people such as Senator CRAIG and Senator MCCAIN and Senator GRAHAM and others to try to pull together comprehensive immigration reform. At the end of the day, we were able to get that comprehensive immigration reform. The President lauded it because it was a good bill. It was legislation that dealt with creating a system of law and order, that would have taken us out of the lawlessness we currently have in our country with respect to immigration and have created a comprehensive system to deal with this major issue of national security, economic security and moral values.

Our legislation dealt with border security. Our legislation dealt with the enforcement of our immigration laws. Our legislation dealt in a realistic way with the penalties and the registration that would apply to the 12 million or so people who are here in this country undocumented today. It was legislation that was comprehensive in nature.

Yes, we were proud we had Senators such as GRAHAM, MCCAIN, SPECTER, REID, KENNEDY and a whole lot of other Members who stood behind this comprehensive approach to immigration reform.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. SALAZAR. I yield.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I support, as did the Senator from Colorado, tough border security. I voted, as did the Senator, for an amendment in the context of an immigration reform bill that would have authorized for Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff 370 miles of fence based on what he told the Senate he needed. Building some fencing as part of a comprehensive reform bill makes sense.

Would the Senator agree, we cannot take a piecemeal approach to fixing our borders?

Mr. SALAZAR. I agree with my friend from Nevada that, indeed, Secretary Chertoff and others have said that a fence by itself will not deal with the problems we are facing in immigration.

Secretary Chertoff's statement was, in his words:

In fact, building a fence in the desert would have the somewhat ironic result of requiring us to put more bodies right up against the border because it would be a less efficient way to deal with it.

So, yes, the Secretary of Homeland Security himself, along with the Attorney General of the United States, has taken a position that this is the wrong way to go.

Mr. President, as we put together this legislation, I want to quickly review what it is we did as we went through the legislation.

First of all, with respect to border security, we were tough on our border, but we were substance. We said we would add 12,000 new Border Patrol agents.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say my friend from Colorado, we have an important agreement we would like to put before the Senate. I ask the Senator from Colorado allow me to interrupt him.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator's time remains.

Mr. REID. Yes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Does the Senator object?

Mr. SALAZAR. No.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent at 9:10 this evening, the pending amendment, No. 5036, be withdrawn, the bill be read the third time, and Senator SALAZAR be recognized for 5 minutes, Senator BINGAMAN for 5 minutes, Senator CRAIG for 5 minutes, Senator REID for 3 minutes, Senator FRIST for 3 minutes, and the Senate proceed immediately to a vote on passage, with no intervening action or debate; and I further ask consent that following that vote, the Senate proceed as under the rule to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur on S. 403; I further ask consent if cloture is not invoked, the Senate proceed immediately to the conference report to accompany H.R. 5441, the Homeland Security Appropriations Conference Report, and there be 5 minutes equally divided for debate prior to a vote on adoption of the conference report.

I further ask consent that if cloture is invoked on the motion to concur to S. 403, the pending amendments be withdrawn and the Senate vote on the motion, with no intervening action or debate; and further, the Senate proceed as above to the Homeland Security conference report.

I also ask following the vote on the Homeland Security conference report, Senator LAUTENBERG be in control of 10 minutes, Senator COLLINS for 5 minutes, Senator STEVENS for 5 minutes; the Senate proceed to a vote on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4954, the port security conference report, if the papers are received from the House and they are identical to those at the desk currently, with no intervening action or debate; further, I ask that if the papers have not arrived from the House, then upon receipt of those papers, the Senate proceed to its consideration, again, only if those papers are identical to those at the desk

currently, then the conference report be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

I further ask consent that following the vote on the port security conference report, H.R. 5441, if port security has not arrived, then the Senate proceed to consideration of H. Con. Res. 483, the adjournment resolution; provided further, that Senator LEVIN be recognized to speak for up to 10 minutes, and following that time, the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. In my capacity as a Senator, I ask the Senator to read again what the Senate is doing with the port security bill.

Mr. FRIST. The Senate proceed to the vote on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4954, the port security conference report, if the papers are received from the House and they are identical to those that are at the desk currently, with no intervening action or debate; further, I ask that if the papers have not arrived from the House, then upon receipt of those papers the Senate proceed to its consideration, again, only if those papers are identical to those at the desk currently, then the conference report be agreed to, with the motion to reconsider laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. I appreciate the courtesy.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, let me briefly outline—because that wording is very complicated—what that means. At approximately 9:30 we will begin voting and we will have a vote on the border fence. Following that, we have a cloture motion to concur with the House on child custody. That also would be a rollcall vote. Following that, there is a short period of debate on Homeland Security, and we have a third rollcall vote on Homeland Security. Following that, port security will be dealt with, which should not require a rollcall vote, and the adjournment resolution, which should not require a rollcall vote.

Thus, we would have three rollcall votes in this unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. It took 2 minutes to read this but it took a lot longer than that to get the 2 minutes in writing.

I appreciate everyone's cooperation, Democrats and Republicans. This is not a perfect end of this session. However, I think it shows there has been tremendous cooperation today, and we will have more to say at a later time. Thanks, everyone.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado is recognized. The Senator 9 minutes and 19 seconds.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, before the unanimous consent request from my colleagues, I was talking about